

Veterans Advisory Council, March 19, 2013

SCITUATE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2013
(No February Meeting)

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, Route 3A

Members Present: Joseph Kelley (Chairman), Edward Covell (Vice Chairman), Michael Scott (Secretary), Robert McHugh (Treasurer), Vincent Fountaine, James Hunt, Dennis Badore, Richard Johnson, John Miller, Don Knapp (VSO – ex officio)

Members Absent: Karen Kelley, Jack Manning, Ben Summers, VFW Commander

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Kelley

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes

Motion made to approve the 1/15/2013 meeting minutes as drafted

Motion seconded

Motion passed unanimously – minutes approved and accepted

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McHugh reported an unchanged balance of \$873.30 on account

Chairman Kelley reported that 400 graveyard flags were purchased from funds acquired from the Rotary fund drive over the holidays; the balance will be deposited on account

Cudworth Flagpole

Chairman Kelley reported that the project has been approved by DPW; VAC and/or Town will pay for flagpole; hope is to have pole up by Memorial Day; discussion of how to illuminate flagpole at night

Correspondence

Chairman Kelley reviewed G.L. c. 59 sec. 5N, which has been accepted by the Town; the law allows veterans to volunteer time to the Town in exchange for up to a \$1,000 reduction in their real estate tax bill

Chairman Kelley reviewed a flyer regarding the Home Award Program conducted by Homes for Our Troops; the program involves bank donation of foreclosed homes to eligible medically-disabled veterans since 9/11

VSO Report

VSO Knapp discussed: the progress he and his office are making on flags/wreaths/markers for veteran gravesites in town; rehabilitation of the Cudworth Cemetery, including possible expansion; appeals of c. 115 denials; reworking Notices of Determination for May rents; his attendance at the winter veterans services conference; Scituate's Veterans Services budget raised for the next fiscal year and awaits Town Meeting approval; federal claims take 236 days on average in Massachusetts

Eagle Scout Project

Noel present with his Mom and reported that his project is done; there is a digital file with an inventory of all veterans graves in St. Mary's Cemetery

Newsletter Project

Chairman Kelley discussed topics to be included; discussion of who will serve as Editor; discussion of involving graphic arts department from Scituate High School and/or South Shore Vocational Technical High School; discussion of bi-annual editions (spring and fall) with distribution to local veterans; Mr. Hunt volunteers to take first cut at newsletter

VAC Term Limits

General discussion of staggering terms of service for members of VAC until it is possible for all members to serve three-year terms and thus accomplish roughly one-third turnover every year; agreement that present membership will be assigned to terms of one-year, two-years, or three-years; agreement that terms expire on March 31, as applicable; agreement that the present membership is assigned to the following terms:

One year term: Michael Scott (non-veteran) term expires 3/31/13
Jack Manning (non-veteran) term expires 3/31/13
Ben Summers (veteran) term expires 3/31/13

Two year term: Richard Johnson (veteran) term expires 3/31/14
Vincent Fountaine (veteran) term expires 3/31/14
John Miller (non-veteran) term expires 3/31/14
Karen Kelley (non-veteran) term expires 3/31/14

Three year term: Joseph Kelley (non-veteran) term expires 3/31/15
Robert McHugh (veteran) term expires 3/31/15
Jim Hunt (veteran) term expires 3/31/15
Dennis Badore (veteran) term expires 3/31/15

Legion: Ed Covell (veteran) indefinite
VFW: vacant indefinite

Chairman Kelley stated that he will solicit four more members for the upcoming year to replace departing members; preference would be for two non-veterans and two veterans to maintain 2/3:1/3 ratio between veterans and non-veterans on membership of VAC

Public Comment

Vice Chairman Covell suggested that VAC set annual goals/projects beyond flag maintenance; general discussion of beautifying Cudworth; veteran outreach; heating oil assistance; newsletter; continue Eagle Scout project into other cemeteries; Christmas Card project; adopt a cemetery

Next meeting date set for April 16, 2013, at 7 pm at Maritime Center

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded; vote unanimous and meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Scott, Secretary